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Trust in the Lord forever - For the Lord
God is an everlasting Rock. Isaiah 26:4

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75 YEARS OF TRUST

History Of The

Evangelical Covenant Church

Of

New Sweden, Maine

At The

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

August 3 - 6, 1961

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75 YEARS OF TRUST

By Hildur Espling

"Trust in the Lord forever for the Lord God is an Everlasting Rock." Isaiah 26:4

A year ago we observed the 90th birthday of the colony of New Sweden; a historical pageant depicted the coming of the pioneers with their founder, Hon. W. W. Thomas. We were again reminded of the hard lean years mingled with happy, more prosperous ones, days of sorrow but days of joy too as "The Children of the Woods" struggled to make homes in this hitherto untamed Northeast. Slowly but steadily, the land was cultivated, schools were built, and the spiritual needs of the colony met fulfillment as churches were built and the pioneers worshipped God and thanked Him for their new homes in a new land.



O. P. Fogelin, our first Pastor

The Lutheran and Baptist churches were well established while our own was still in the formative stage. As early as 1874, servants of the Lord had been visiting the area, preaching the Gospel for longer or shorter periods. A Rev. Wiberg spent three months that year and returned in 1881; that same year Rev. A. Nelson in March, and Rev. Emil Holmblad in July, and Rev. C. W. Holm in November sought to win souls for Christ. God blessed their efforts and many decided to live for Him. One of these was O. P. Fogelin, who,

besides dedicating himself to Christ, had shown special leadership ability and after much persuasion and prayer, he became the first permanent pastor.

Twenty members had joined together on November 27, 1886, to form the nucleus of our church, and for several years meetings were held in homes and schoolhouses. But the need for a church home became increasingly imperative, and on November 27, 1890, four years to a day since the church was organized, it was decided to erect a building large enough to accomodate all who were desirous of hearing the Word preached.



Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Swenson,
Charter Members

A Mr. Truls Person gave half an acre of land for the church site in a desirable location, and preparations were soon under way. On September 22, 1891, the members met in a partly completed building, and the church was incorporated under the name Free Christian Gospel Mission Church of New Sweden. On Sunday, December 6, 1891, the first public meeting and the dedication was held.

In 1895 a Sunday School was started by Rev. Fogelin in the West Road school; this work was moved to the Westmanland schoolhouse where it continued for another dozen years.

In 1897 the church joined the Aroostook Conference of Congregational Churches and received both encouragement and financial assistance from them for many years.

The new building acquired a finished look when, in 1901, through a gift of Hon. W. W. Thomas, a church steeple was added. Over the years this has been a reminder, ever pointing heavenward, joining other spires as it were, in our New England, telling forth that here too, God is exalted and has been our Rock over these 75 years of progress.

In 1911 the interior was renovated -- steel sheathing covered the walls and ceiling; the kitchen was enlarged and the room upstairs was finished. The work was made possible through the efforts of a Rev. Chas. Herbett (the Sec. of the Maine Missionary Society) who solicited help throughout the state so that the cost of renovating ($1,065.30) plus much donated labor and material, had been paid for.

The next major accomplishment was in procuring the parsonage; in 1914 a Mr. O.H. Nelson, who, though not a member, had in many ways shown his interest. His offer to sell his newly built home to the church at a reasonable price was accepted. It was the same Mr. Nelson who with his brother, Andrew Nelson, paid for installing electric lights in the church and parsonage. What an improvement over kerosene lamps!

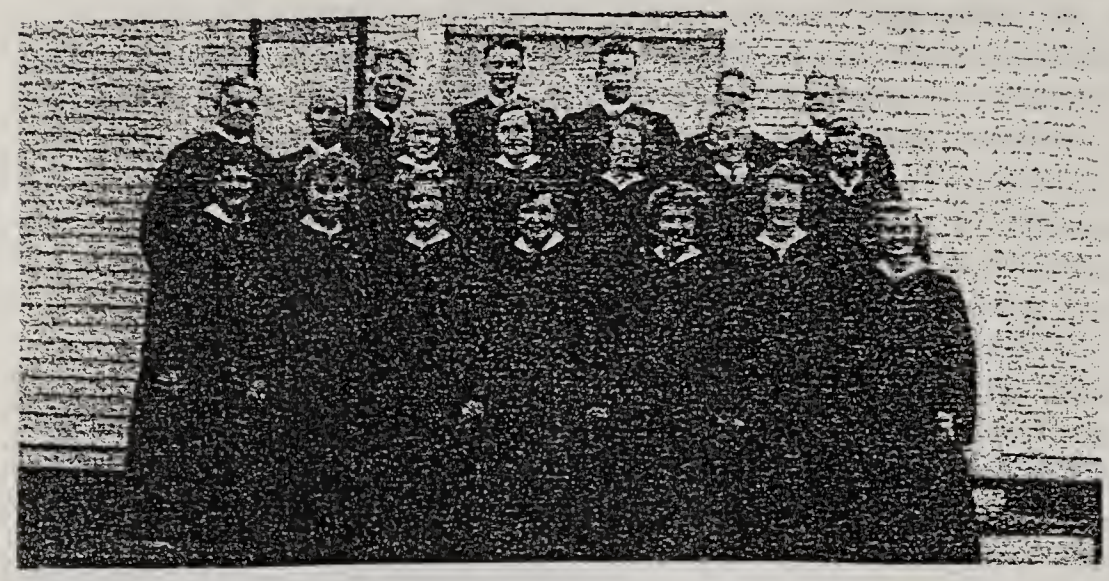
After serving faithfully for 26 years as pastor, Rev. Fogelin resigned in 1912, and a minister from Iowa, Carl F. Swanson, came to serve until 1914 when he was succeeded by Thure Nordberg. Now we were undergoing troublous times indeed; besides serving the church, Rev. Nordberg worked for the Red Cross and was ever interested in activities for the relief of soldiers engaged in the First World War.

It was during his stay that Rev. Fogelin died; his death saddened the entire community. Visitors to our museum are privileged to see near his portrait his well-worn Bible, and many go to linger near the beautiful memorial in the nearby cemetery where his earthly remains were laid to rest.

Rev. Norberg terminated his service in 1918, and Rev. C. F. Olson served as our next pastor until 1927. During the next three years we had summer services only, and a Rev. Oscar Lindegren from Everett, Mass., supplied the pulpit, and in 1931 Rev. Arne Lindgren of Lowell, Mass. accepted the call to serve full time. He remained until the fall of 1939 when he and his family moved to Sweden where they still reside.

Philip G. Frykholm and his wife came in 1940 to serve the church for two summers before doing full time work from 1942 to 1944. Under his leadership the congregation became affiliated with the Eastern Missionary Association, and a major undertaking completed when a basement was made (dug out) under part of the church and a furnace was installed. A new chimney too, was built and new windows

were added. His successor, Wallace Cedarleaf, came from Rockford, Illinois, and under his leadership we became affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Church of America.



The Choir after it was reorganized.

Mrs. Cedarleaf used her musical ability towards directing and training the reorganized church choir which improved greatly under her talented supervision.

Necessary repairs and improvements were again provided;to mention a few: the roof of the sanctuary was shingled, a new floor covering added, choir robes supplied, a new Baptismal Font purchased, Sunday school rooms redecorated, all tending to make our worship services more impressive.

It was in 1948 that the Cedarleafs terminated their stay in New Sweden. Rev. Otto Edwards served as Interim Pastor until July 1, 1949, when Edwin Johnson accepted our call to serve as pastor, staying until November, 1950. We were honored to have the beloved President of the Covenant, Dr. Theodore Anderson visit us, and we were thrilled to hear him preach; Dr. Louis Person, Supt. of the Eastern Missionary Association, showed films taken on his recent tour of Sweden and Germany.

During the Johnson's stay, the church interior was treated to a paint job, and a major undertaking to improve the parsonage readied it for the next occupants, Rev. and Mrs. Roy Olson and family from Mason City, Iowa. It required sacrificial giving to raise the sum of $663.15 to take care of moving expenses. This was rather a blow to our

funds, but did not discourage us from a much needed project -- that to undertake again digging out for more basement room. God had blessed us; our Sunday School had increased, we needed more room, and dining room space too.

Another great need was felt: that the drilling of a well would be a must and so work commenced. All of these needs have been fulfilled and we can only humbly thank God for His help! The Olsons rendered service in musical direction too, during their work here, which ended when he accepted a call to Rhode Island in September, 1954.

Rev. Harry Anderson served from 1954 to 1959. He had recently returned from service as a missionary to Africa, his wife's health necessitating a leave from his work there. For many years we had hoped to acquire an electric organ, and our hopes were realized when a beautiful new electric organ was dedicated to service during their work here.

We are presently served by Rev. Gordon Miller; he, together with his wife, Ann, and daughter, Priscilla, came to us from Jamestown, New York. We are especially thankful to God that He has helped make possible many changes to beautify our place of worship. The interior has been completely renovated by tearing off the old steel sheathing, rehpholstering and refinishing the pulpit furniture and last but not least we thrill over the beauty and comfort of our new pews, the dedication of which, is part of our Anniversary program. This project was made possible due to untiring effort expended by the Young Adults.

In conclusion, as we look back, we rejoice in the beginnings made by our pioneer forefathers in the church and The Evangelical Covenant Church of New Sweden, Maine, together with other Covenant Churches everywhere has already embarked into the "Decade of Dedication." The Congo chaos, the recent presidential election, unrest in Cuba, civil war in Laos, the flight of Gregarin and Alan Shepard into space all conspire to create excitement and tension, but may we never as a church falter in the greatest venture of all: that of winning lost souls for Christ and continue to "Trust in the Lord forever for the Lord God is an Everlasting Rock."

List Of Charter Members

Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Larsson
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Jons Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Hans Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Stadig
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Peterson
Mr. Eric Lundvall
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Swenson
Mr. O. P. Fogelin
Mr. & Mrs. Holmquist

Our Services

SUNDAY

9:45 A. M. Sunday School for all ages.
11:00 A. M. Divine Worship Service. Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the Month.
11:00 A. M. Junior Worship for our youth.
7:00 P. M. Evening Worship Service.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 P. M. The mid-week service of prayer and Bible study is held. The Church Choir meets for rehearsal following this service.

Our Organizations

The following organizations meet periodically for inspiration and fellowship.

The Friendly Guild for all the women of the church.
Kupple's Klub for our young married couples.
Young Adults for college age or older.
Young People's Club for our teenagers.
Junior League for boys and girls ages 9 to 13.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

"What remembrance does a Pastor's wife hold of this parish?" you ask.

Dear Covenant Church Members and Friends:

God's Grace and Peace.

No congregation could have been more patient, gracious and understanding in receiving Pastor Carl F. Olsson, his wife and daughter into their fellowship.

Your parsonage made a fine home, also where flowering perennials grew every year along side the L shaped veranda, the beautiful birch growing on the nearby knoll where our daughter spent much of her time in her childhood play, and from the north windows of the parsonage the most beautiful display of northern lights could be seen, which was pleasing to my eyes.

The church with its spaciousness and finishing touch in blue gave a peaceful atmosphere in praise, in worship, in music, song and God's word.

The steeple with its spire pointing heavenward as a reminder that our Creator holdeth all things in the hollow of His Hand. As a little girl our daughter attempted to climb to its peak without success. Today daughter Winnifred has three children of her own and none have tried climbing church steeples, only the steps which is blessed hope.

We always cherished your friendship and devotion to Jesus Christ. As a congregation your response to the preaching of the Gospel was as every pastor hopes for his people to respond.

As for generosity with material gifts you showered us and added love and affection. Through the years of service on this field there were improvements, accomplishments as well as failures and yet growth -- both up and out! Some of our aims did not become fulfilled. It is as the Apostle Paul states: "One soweth, another watereth and another reapeth."

Daughter Winnifred and myself continue to find inspiration and joy as we follow with interest any word from New Sweden because your love, your joy, and your heartaches all have had a part in building of our lives.

Prayers will be with you in this celebration and may God bless to prosper the spiritual development of every soul in your church.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carl F. Olsson



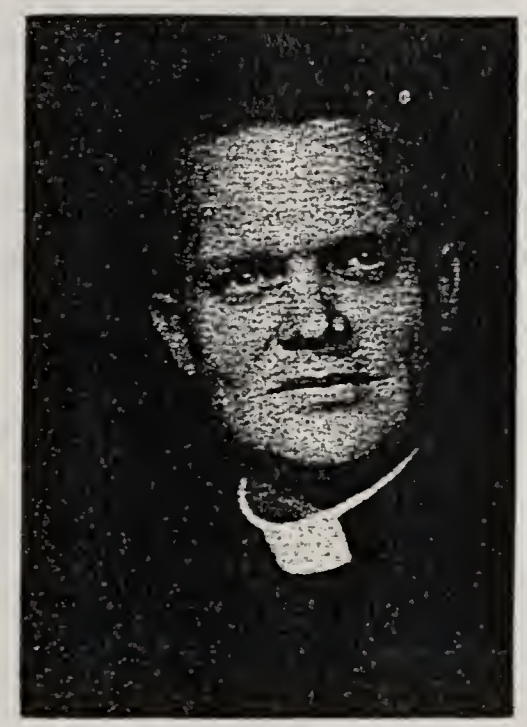
Rev. Oscar Lindegren
Pastor, 1927-1930



Rev. Arne Lindgren
Pastor, 1931-1939



Rev. and Mrs. Philip Frykholm
Pastor, 1940-1944



Rev. Wallace Cedarleaf,
Pastor, 1945-1948

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

Evangelical Covenant Church
New Sweden, Maine

Dear Friends:

God's Peace!

On this occasion of your church's 75th Anniversary celebration (Jubilee) we wish to extend to you a cordial greeting and well wishes reminding you of the words in Hebrew 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." The years pass and we change but the love of God revealed through Christ Jesus remains the same. I realize many changes have taken olace since my family and I left you 20 years ago. Many have left their earthly home and gone into their eternal rest. Peace over their memory! We rejoice that the Young People have accepted the challenge and are serving our Saviour.

I pray by the Grace of God that your church be granted wisdom and strength to fulfill the mission that the Great Giver of every good gift has granted to you. Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10

Mary, Carl-Eric and I send our heartfelt wishes with prayer for God's richest blessing.

In His Name

Arne Lindgren

Arboga, Sweden

(Translated from Swedish)

Friday, August 4, 7:30 o'clock
HISTORICAL NIGHT

The Prelude

The Call to Worship

The Invocation

*The Hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father" No. 323

The Scripture Lesson

The Pastoral Prayer

Vocal Duet Edwina Jacobson and Howard Carlson

The Presentation of the Anniversary Booklet and Some Reflections on the Past

The Dedication of the Church Pews

*The Hymn "O Thou Whose Hand Has Brought Us" No. 554

The Announcements

The Offertory

Vocal Solo "The Love of God" Lorraine Smith

*The Hymn "Thanks to God for My Redeemer" No. 543

The Sermon Rev. Wallace Cedarleaf

*The Hymn "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord" No. 375

*The Benediction

Silent Prayer

The Postlude

*The Congregation Stands

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Saturday, August 5, 7:30 o'clock
SACRED CONCERT

The Prelude
Vocal Duet — Doris Belyea and Howard Carlson

*The Hymn "Sing the Glad Carol of Jesus, Our Lord" No. 107
*The Invocation

The Anthem — "Great Things He Hath Done" — The Choir
"The Rock of Refuge"

The Scripture Lesson — Psalms 96, 98

Vocal Trio — Sandra, Eric, and Ronald Johnson
"Life's Springtime" — Trinity Lutheran Church

Vocal Solo — "Jag Har En Van" — Chester Ringdahl
First Baptist Church, New Sweden

Musical Selection — Larry Hall

Male Quartet — Richard Becker, Howard Carlson
Roger Espling, Karl Sjoberg

Vocal Duet — Mr. & Mrs. David Espling
Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church

*The Congregational Hymn — No. 386
"Jesus, Lord and Precious Savior"

The Announcements
The Offertory

Musical Selection — Larry Hall

Vocal Duet — Mr. & Mrs. Abner Jepson
Stockholm Baptist Church

The Anthem — "How Great Thou Art" — The Choir
"My Defense is of God"

*The Closing Prayer
*The Benediction
The Postlude

*The Congregation Stands

Sunday, August 6, 11 o'clock
DIVINE WORSHIP

The Preparation
Thou dost keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee,
because he trusts in thee.
Trust in the Lord for ever,
for the Lord God
is an everlasting rock.

The Prelude

*The Processional Hymn No. 414
"Chosen Seed and Zion's Children"

*The Invocation Concluding With The Lord's Prayer

The Old Testament Lesson Responsive Reading 79

The Anthem "My Defense is of God"

The Pastoral Prayer and the Choral Response

The Church Calendar

The Worship of God With Our Gifts
The Offertory
*The Doxology
*The Dedicatory Prayer

Vocal Duet Karen Espling and Kathleen Norberg

*The Hymn "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" No. 255

The Sermon Rev. C. Leslie Strand

*The Hymn Selected

*The Benediction

Silent Prayer

The Postlude

*The Congregation Stands

Sunday, August 6, 4 o'clock
COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Prelude

The Call to Worship

*The Hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" No. 336

*The Invocation

The Hymn "Great Hills May Tremble" No. 93

The Scripture Lesson Responsive Reading 82

The Pastoral Prayer

Vocal Duet Rev. & Mrs. Wallace Cedarleaf

The Announcements

The Worship of God With Our Gifts
The Offertory Prayer
The Offertory Music

Instrumental Trio
John Dischinger, Bonnie Gay & John J. Ringdahl

*The Hymn No. 397
"If I Gained the World, but Lost the Savior"

The Sermon Rev. Wallace Cedarleaf

*The Hymn "Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing" No. 53

*The Benediction

Silent Prayer

The Postlude

*The Congregation Stands

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

Evangelical Covenant Church
New Sweden, Maine

"--- to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Ephesians 1:1-2)

Dear Friends in Christ:

We cannot adequately tell you how much it would mean to us to be able to share with you the blessings of this most memorable and auspicious occasion - the 75th Anniversary observance of the founding of the Evangelical Covenant Church of New Sweden, Maine.

What precious memories we have of the years spent with you! Your church will forever be "our first love" among the churches we have been privileged to serve.

For three-fourths of a century, your church has been a faithful and effective witness in "holding forth the Word of Life" to the blessing and salvation of countless souls. For the long line of faithful Christians who have worshipped and served God here, in this particular portion of the Master's Great Vineyard, we would pause in silent tribute and thank God for their labor of love and influence in our midst.

We congratulate you most heartily, pastor and people, at this Diamond Jubilee observance and praise God for battles fought and victories won during these 75 years.

We will be forever grateful for the privilege we had of starting our Christian ministry in New Sweden. As we look back over the years and if we had opportunity to do it again we can think of no finer place to begin. Thank you, dear friends, for your fellowship in the Gospel. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." (Phil. 1:3).

Let us not be content with p a s t achievements, and a

measure of success, but rather let us aim high throughout the unfolding future. May the words of Dan Crawford, "Hats off to the Past - Coats off to the Future" spur us on to great conquests for our blessed Lord.

In the words of Studdert Kennedy:

We shall build on!
We shall build on!
On through the cynics scorning,
On through the cowards warning,
On through the cheats suborning,
We shall build on!

In spite of disturbing and tense world situations, let us collectively journey on in the triumphant faith and confidence that the best is yet to come. The future is as bright as the promises of God.

"Jesus bids us shine with a clear bright light
Like a little candle shining in the night
In this world of darkness we must shine
You in your small corner, and I in mine."

Across the miles we send you our Christian Love - Heartfelt Congratulations and the best of wishes for many rich blessings in the Master's service in the years which lie ahead.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

Yours, in the Fellowship of Jesus,

Pastor and Mrs. Frykholm
David, Paul and Mark

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST



Pastor Cedarleaf, left, and Pastor Frykholm, right together with youth group at Lord's Acre project.



Friendly Guild come-as-you-are party, 1952.



Our church as it appeared About 25 years ago.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

Evangelical Covenant Church
New Sweden, Maine

Beloved friends:

When Ethel and I arrived in New Sweden on August first, 1945, we had been married less than a month. Now as we look back on it we think of our three years there as an extended honeymoon. More than you realize, our experiences among you have become an integral part of our lives. And hardly a month passes without someone or something Maine invading our thoughts and conversation.

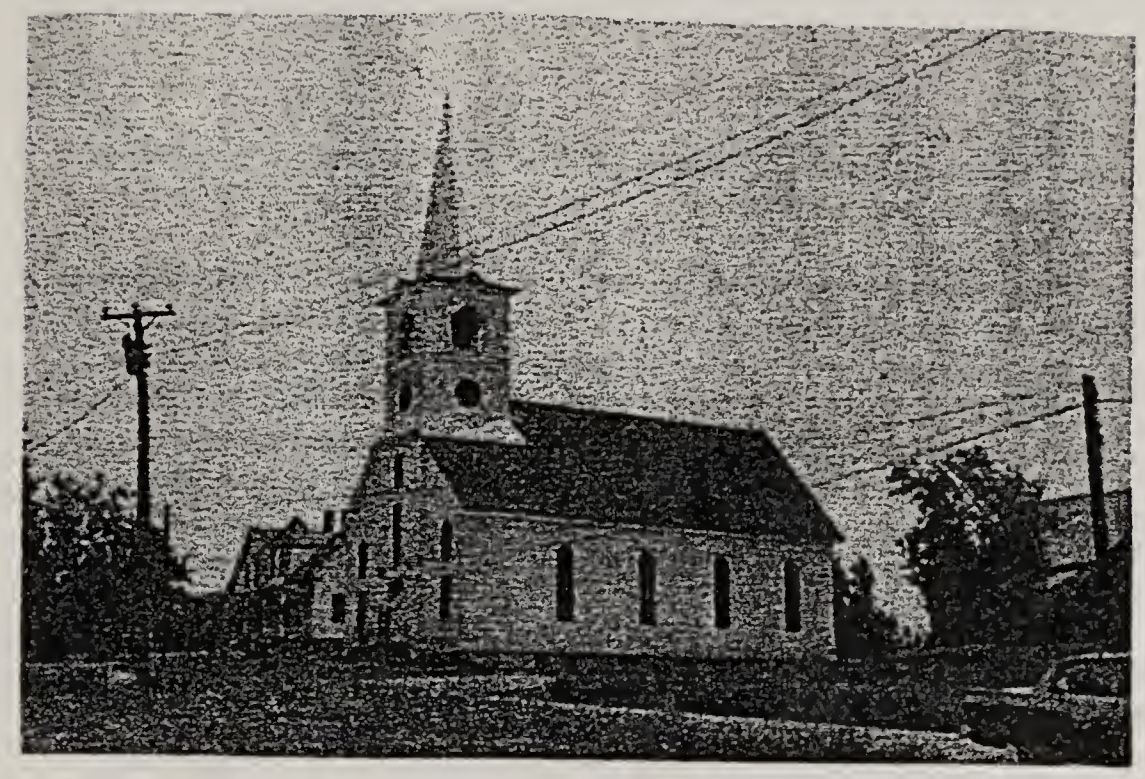
Blessings on each one of you. Blessings on your past and on your future. May the strong right arm of our Lord God strengthen and uphold you. May the indwelling Christ purify and protect you. May the power of the Holy Spirit guide you in the Light and Love which never fails.

Congratulations on your 75th. May your families ever share in the fellowship and communion of the Church, Christ's body, for which he lived and died, and ever lives through the power of almighty God.

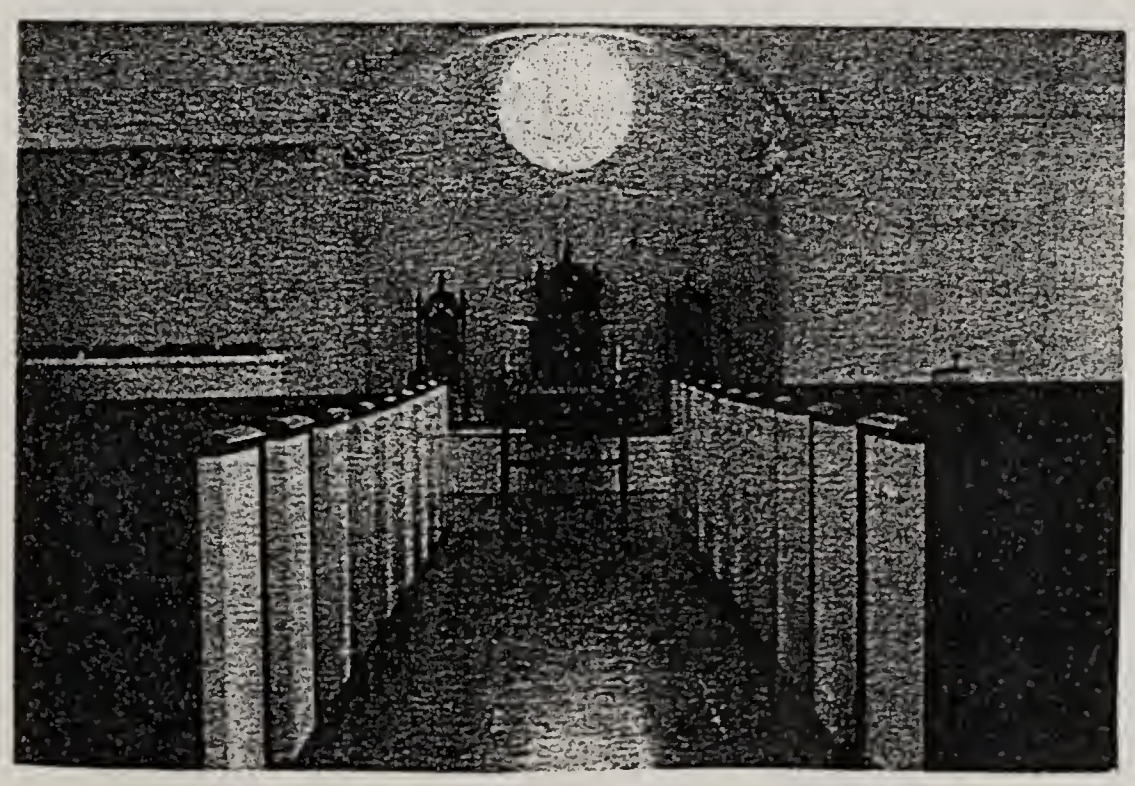
Sincerely,

Wallace and Ethel Cedarleaf
David, 12, and Diane, 8

OUR CHURCH, 1961



Evangelical Covenant Church of New Sweden, Maine, 1961.



Interior of our church after installation of new pews.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

To the Evangelical Covenant Church members and friends in New Sweden:

Our thoughts go back to the many happy months that we spent as your pastor and wife, from June 1949 to November 1950. Perhaps it is the rich experience of sharing spiritual blessings with you that has made you beloved to our hearts. This is the reason that our experience with you still stands out as the mountain top experience in our spiritual life. Whatever part we may have given of our talents and spiritual gifts, we have received a hundredfold in return.

We thank you for having given us the privilege of serving you and pray for God's richest blessing upon you all and upon your present spiritual leader, Rev. Miller.

Sincerely,

Edwin and Elaine Johnson

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

The Evangelical Covenant Church
New Sweden, Maine

Dear Friends in Christ:

It was our sincere hope and desire to be able to attend the 75th Anniversary services of your church during the week of August 3-6. As a former pastor it does our hearts good to hear of the fine progress you are making spiritually and also in the continual development and beautification of your church plant and property.

As I indicated to your pastor I am currently attending the clinical training course conducted by Andover Newton Theological School at Boston City Hospital. It is because of this heavy schedule that we will be unable to be present at your anniversary services.

The New Sweden Church and community will always hold a warm spot in our heart. We pray for you often and ask that you continue to do the same for us. May the Lord bless and guide you under the ministry of the Holy Spirit through your pastor and his family, and may His blessing be directly upon each one of you in working together and in the development of Christian homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Roy E. Olson and family

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

To the Members and Friends of the Evangelical Covenant Church of New Sweden, Maine:

Greetings! "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I Thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:2-6.

Congratulations on this your 75th Anniversary! We trust and pray that this celebration shall be a time not only of rejoicing of what God has done for you in the past, but, also a time of new dedication to the cause of Christ.

All around us we see anxiety and fear as to what the future may hold. However, to the believer in Christ we have His blessed words to us in John's Gospel: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Should the Lord tarry, I believe it will take courage in the future for the believer to remain true to Christ.

My prayers are with you at this time, that God shall bless mightily for His honor and glory.

Mrs. Anderson, Daniel and Philip also send their heartiest greetings to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Harry E. Anderson

OUR CHURCH, 1961



Our Sunday School pupils at opening exercises.



Friendly Guild come-as-you are party, 1961.



Mrs. Sophia Jacobson, our oldest member.

GREETINGS FROM OUR MINISTER



Mrs. Ann Miller, Pastor Gordon Miller and Priscilla.

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26:4

Those who take God at His word have found that His promises, assurances of comfort, peace, joy and hope, as well as His warning of judgment have come true. Those who have placed their complete trust in God have found Him faithful to His Word. They may look to Him and find Him to be their stronghold, the rock of their salvation.

The children of Israel found this to be very true. From the time that Moses struck the rock from which flowed the living waters and for generations after these words of Isaiah were written, God was looked upon as their rock in refuge. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. There we will not fear..." Psalm 46:1-2a

The Church has also looked to God as an everlasting rock. The full revelation of God in Jesus Christ has been the Church's rock of salvation. Pages of church history testify to the trust placed in its Lord through all times, times of witness and outreach into the world as well as times of persecution and difficulty. This has enabled the

Church to reach all parts of the earth.

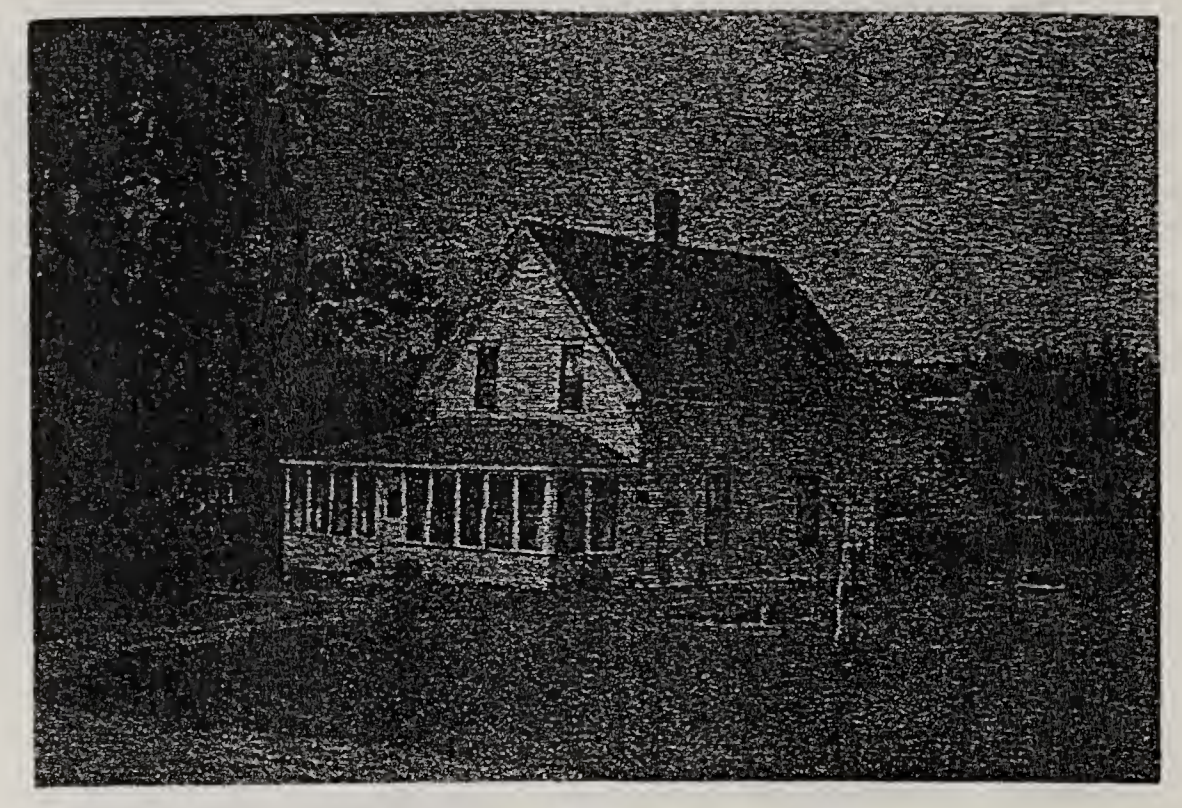
One senses that this same trust in God, this same thought of Him as the everlasting rock, has also the characteristic of The Evangelical covenant Church during its 75 years of ministry in New Sweden. Because of this God has blessed His people and their influence and outreach has continued as an essential part of the life of our community. This is not to say we have been spared from difficulties and trials. The hisotries of the church and its minutes from various business meetings tell, perhaps, of too many such difficult times. Yet, one cannot help but be impressed that throughout its history, its people have maintained this faith and trust in God, the everlasting rock.

The Church must continue to do this of it expects to maintain its purpose for existence. Our trust, faith, and hope must be in God if we are to be called His people. We do not know exactly what the future holds in store for us; there is little reason to play songs of pessimism, and optimism must not carry us away from any real problems that do exist. However, when we trust completely in God, giving our lives fully to Him as our guide and our rock for us individually, so also will we find him to be the everlasting rock of our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Gordon B. Miller
Minister

OUR CHURCH, 1961



Our Parsonage.



Sunday morning, 1961, Evangelical Covenant Church.

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